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Guardian East

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August 6, 2003



Changing of the Guard:
28th Infantry Division
takes charge of MNB(E)

Page 4

Message to the troops



Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck

us not forget the multinationals that serve with us as well. This is what makes the team we have formed great! I assure you that everyone here is a part of a great team. A team that has come together over the past four months in training, joined with units who have been in country for several months as a part of the prior rotation, to become a well-trained and ready asset to accomplish the Kosovo mission.

As we work together toward a common goal for the people of Kosovo, let us remember where history has brought us and how that history will be written about us when we leave. ROLL ON!

By Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck

Welcome Team! This is the time we have long awaited – the time when we begin our rotation as part of the Multi-National Brigade (East) team in Kosovo. A team made up not only of U.S. soldiers but also of Greek, Ukrainian, Lithuanian, Polish and Austrian soldiers as well. It has been a long road getting here, but I would hope that in your minds, the training, the anticipation and the wait have all been worth this opportunity. As your commander, I would like to take this time to recognize the importance of this mission and the importance of the role you all play in its accomplishment.

The 28th Infantry Division has been named the Headquarters of this Brigade. The 28th is the oldest division in the armed forces of the United States. The division officially established on March 12, 1879, has been a part of many major wars throughout the history of America. Elements of the division can be traced as far back as the French and Indian War. This division has made history in many campaigns throughout time, and the Joint Guardian mission in Kosovo is no exception. Every soldier

in this brigade has become a part of history in the making as the first Reserve Component lead brigade for this Peacekeeping operation. This is not a task that should be taken lightly, and I expect that each soldier in the 28th ID and all of the other units that make up this brigade will take pride in their mission and responsibilities while deployed here.

It is essential that despite the pride we may relish we continue to focus on the mission and the challenges set before us. We cannot, at any time, let our guard down. We must remain professional and maintain the standards of being soldiers. We must work as a team during every aspect of the mission and maintain the standards in the field that the people of Kosovo have come to expect of soldiers serving in MNB(E).

I know that the men and women who comprise this brigade are dedicated, hard working individuals who come from many unique and varied backgrounds. The 28th ID of the Pa. National Guard may have the lead, but there are many National Guard, Army Reserve, and Active Component soldiers from many different states represented here. Let

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Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck

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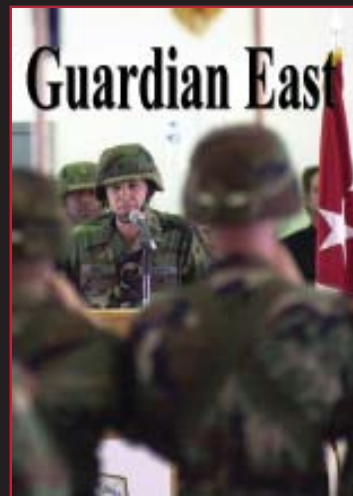
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Multi-National Brigade (East) soldiers stand in formation while the 1st Infantry Division transfers authority to the 28th Infantry Division
Photo by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons. *Story, page 4*

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Cover: Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck addresses the soldiers of Multi-National Brigade (East) during a transfer of authority ceremony July 28 at Camp Bondsteel. During the TOA, the 28th Infantry Division, Pa. Army National Guard, took command from the 1st ID. Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Cole, 982nd Combat Camera.

SEE THE PHOTO OF THE DAY
www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil

Submissions or story ideas related to the MNB(E) mission are encouraged. Send regular mail to MNB(E) PAO, Attn: Editor, Camp Bondsteel, APO AE 09340; send e-mail to guardianeast@bondsteel2.aur.army.mil.

The Changing of the Guard:

28th Infantry Division Takes Charge of MNB(E)

Story by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold

The 28th Infantry Division (Mechanized) led by Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck incoming commander, Multi-National Brigade East, assumed command of MNB(E) from Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Keefe, outgoing commander MNB(E), and the 1st Infantry Division during the ninth transfer of authority ceremony for MNB(E) in the “big clamshell” aircraft hangar at Camp Bondsteel July 28.

Keefe gave his farewell remarks to military and civilian members of MNB(E) as well as many leaders from Kosovo’s political, religious and business communities. He addressed how MNB(E) along with civil authorities have dramatically improved the stabilization of the region during the last year.

“I am confident that the progress made to date; progress in security, progress in returns, progress in rebuilding will continue,” said Keefe.

Below: 1st Infantry Division’s Army Band plays during the TOA between the 1st and the 28th ID.

Photo by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons



Below: Greek and POLUKR Battallions stand at parade rest at the TOA July 28. Photo by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons.



Col. Dana H. Pittard, 3rd Brigade deputy commander for maneuver, leads the color guard at the 1st ID TOA July 28. Photo by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons.

While Keefe was quick to point out the brigade’s past accomplishments, he was just as quick to reassure Kosovo about the future. “There is no better example of our commitment to Kosovo, than these transition ceremonies.

“America continues to send our most precious resource, our sons and daughters for one purpose; and that is to ensure a peaceful and secure future for the people of Kosovo.”

After Keefe finished his remarks, he was followed by Beck. The incoming commander began his remarks by thanking the 1st ID for their “outstanding efforts, hard work, and dedication to the mission here in Kosovo.”

Beck then acknowledged the commitment of the other multi-national partners. “I look forward to working with the soldiers from Greece, Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania and other countries that are here to support this great mission.”



Above: KFOR Commander Lt. Gen. Fabio Mini passes the NATO flag to Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck at the TOA July 28 while Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Keefe and Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth R. Jacoby look on. Photo by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons.

Concluding his remarks, Beck assured those present of KFOR's dedication.

"The men and women of KFOR 5A are very dedicated soldiers and airmen who will do their part for the people of Kosovo," Beck said.

A reception was held after the ceremony, and many of the guests stayed to personally thank Keefe and welcome Beck to MNB(E).



Above: Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck speaks to the soldiers of MNB(E) at the 28th Infantry Division TOA ceremony at Camp Bondsteel July 28. Photo by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons.



Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Keefe greets KFOR Commander Lt. Gen. Fabio Mini at the TOA July 28 while Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck looks on. Photo by Sgt. Jonathan W. Cole, 982nd Signal Co. (Combat Camera).

Maj. Amy Anderson, operations officer for the 175th Military Police Battalion, leads her soldiers' formation at the TOA July 28. Photo by Sgt. Jonathan W. Cole, 982nd Signal Co. (Combat Camera).



Adapted from www.grunts.net

The 28th Infantry Division is the oldest division in the armed forces of the United States. The Office of the Chief of Military History certified that General Order No. 1, dated March 12, 1879, officially established the division.

Revolutionary War Days

Elements of the division can trace their histories back to 1747, when Benjamin Franklin organized his battalion of "Associators" in Philadelphia. Other Pennsylvania units of the 28th ID had their beginnings in the Revolutionary War. Troop A, 1st Squadron, 104th Cavalry, and the 109th Artillery Regiment served with distinction in Gen. George Washington's Continental Army during the war.

The 19th Century

During the War of 1812, the Mexican War and the Civil War, units fought victoriously at Vera Cruz and Cerro Gordo. Units of the Pennsylvania Militia won 29 battle streamers during these wars. In 1878, Governor John F. Hartranft formed a single National Guard of Pennsylvania and became the 28th's first commander. The division mustered into federal service in 1898 for the Spanish-American War. Elements saw action in Puerto Rico and the Philippines. On Oct. 27, 1918, the Red Keystone was designated the shoulder sleeve insignia of the division. The distinctive Keystone was the second shoulder sleeve patch to receive official Army approval.

World War I

Units of the 28th ID, known at the time as the 7th Division, were called to active duty for the Mexican Border incidents in 1916. Pennsylvania's 7th Division was ordered to active duty on July 15, 1917. On October 11, 1917, the 7th was reorganized as the 28th ID. The 28th arrived in France on May 18, 1918. It was committed to battle on July 14. Soldiers of the division participated in six major campaigns — Champagne, Champagne-Marne,

Aisne-Marne, Oise-Marne, Lorraine, and Meuse-Argonne. During those campaigns, the division suffered over 14,000 battle casualties. Its fierce combat abilities earned it the title "Iron Division" from Gen. of the Armies John J. Pershing.

World War II

On Feb. 17, 1941, the 28th ID was ordered into federal service for one year of active duty. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, led soldiers of the 28th to remain on active duty for the duration of the war. The division's intensive training agenda culminated in its deployment to England on Oct. 8, 1943.

The 28th entered combat on July 22, 1944, landing on the beaches of Normandy. From Normandy, it advanced across western France through towns such as Percy, Montbray, Montguoray, Gathemo and St. Sever de Calvados by the end of July 1944. The fury of assaults launched by the 28th ID led the German Army to bestow the Keystone soldiers with the title "Bloody Bucket" Division.

In a movement north toward the Seine in late August, the division succeeded in trapping the remnant of the German 7th Army through Vorneuil, Breteuil, Damville, Conches, Le Neubourg and Elbeuf before entering Paris to join in its liberation. With no time to rest, the division moved on to fight some of the bloodiest battles of the war.

The advance continued through the Forest of Compeigne, La Fere, St. Quentin, Laon, Reims, Sedan, Mezieres, Bouillon and eventually across the Meuse River into Belgium. The Keystone soldiers averaged

17 miles a day against the resistance of German "battle groups." The city of Arlon, Belgium, fell to a task force as the Division fanned out into Luxem-

The 28th Rolls C

A History of the 28th Infantry Division

bourg in early September. On Sept. 11, 1944, the 28th claimed the distinction of being the first American unit to enter Germany.

After hammering away in assaults which destroyed or captured

153 pillboxes and bunkers, the division moved north toward the Siegfried Line, clearing the Monschau Forest of German forces.

28th On...

History of 28th Infantry Division

The 28th stormed into Vossenack, Kommerscheidt and Schmidt amid savage fighting and heavy losses.

By November 10, the 28th began to move south, where it held a 25-mile sector of the front line along the Our River. It was against this thinly fortified division line that the Germans unleashed the full force of their winter Ardennes "blitzkrieg" offensive. Five Axis divisions stormed across the Our River the first day, followed by four more in the next few days.

Overwhelmed by the weight of enemy power, the Division maintained its defense of this sector long enough to throw Von Runstedt's assault off schedule. With allied forces able to make a move in to counterattack, the "Battle of the Bulge" ensued, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy forces.

Having sustained a devastating 15,000 casualties, the 28th withdrew to rest, resupply and bring in replacements. But within three weeks, the Division was back in action. By January 1945, Division soldiers had moved south where they served with the French First Army in the reduction of the "Colmar Pocket."

The 109th Infantry Regiment was awarded the French Croix de Guerre for its action which helped lead to the liberation of Colmar, the last major French city in German hands. By February 23, 1945, the Division returned north to the American First Army. The 28th was in position along the Olef River when an attack was launched on March 6, 1945, carrying the Division to the Ahr River. Schleiden, , among other cities, all fell in a raid advance. By early April, the Division moved west of the Rhine and took up occupation duties in the area north of Aachen along the Holland-German border.

Permanent occupation came later at the Saurland and Rhonish areas. In early July 1945, the 28th began its redeployment to the U.S.

The division was deactivated on December 13, 1945. Five campaign streamers - Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes-Alsace, Rhineland, and Central Europe - were earned during World War II, in addition to the Croix de Guerre.

Korea to the Mid-'60s

Early in 1946, the 28th was organized as part of the Pennsylvania National Guard. In 1950, the division was ordered into active service to become part of the U.S. NATO force after the North Koreans invaded South Korea. Though most of the soldiers were returned to the United States by June in 1952, the division was not returned to the control of the Commonwealth until June 15, 1954.

The Vietnam Era

In October 1965, the 28th was one of three Guard divisions selected as part of the Army Selected Reserve force. In 1968 it was again reorganized, this time into a three-state configuration.

Desert Storm

Although the 28th was not mobilized in force for Operation Desert Storm, division volunteers were deployed to serve in the Middle East and other locations.

Bosnia

In early 1996, soon after the Dayton Peace Accords were signed, forward observers from the 28th artillery were called to support NATO peacekeeping forces in Bosnia. The Target Acquisition Battery of the 109th Field Artillery was mobilized for the peacekeeping mission one year later. And in 1999, the Division's Company H, 104th Aviation (Air Traffic Control) was activated, with its tour of duty extending into 2000.

Kosovo

Beginning July 28, 2003 the 28th Infantry Division will make history again by becoming the first National Guard Unit to assume the U.S. Kosovo Forces Area of Responsibility.

After a brief respite, the Keystone soldiers made another move northward to the Huertgen Forest in late September. Attacks in the forest began November 2, 1944.

Handing Over the Reigns: 793rd MP's Pass Duties on to New Battalion

**Story and Photos by
Sgt. Heidi Schaap**

Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division's 793rd Military Police Battalion passed on the mantle of MP responsibility to the soldiers of the 715th MP Battalion, under the command of the 28th ID, in a Transfer of Authority ceremony July 16.

The gathering at Victory Field was held to acknowledge and honor the peacekeeping service of the 793rd and welcome the 175th to Kosovo.

The outgoing battalion rolled and covered their guidon during the ceremony while the 175th's was unfurled as a visible symbol of their new position of authority in Multi-National Brigade (East).

Deputy Commander for Maneuver Col. Dana Pittard, who spoke at the ceremony, said the soldiers of the 793rd truly made a difference in MNB(E).

"Overall, Kosovo is a safer and more secure place because of the 793rd MP Battalion," Pittard said. "You have made a difference to the people of Kosovo."

Lt. Col. Wendul Hagler, Task Force MP commander, added



Lt. Col. Wendul Hagler and Sgt. Maj. Charles Jones unfurl the 175th Military Police Battalion guidon at the Task Force MP transfer of authority ceremony July 16.

that "a fitting means" of the MP's showing their appreciation to KFOR rotation 4B is to carry on with the outstanding military police support provided by the units that have served before them.

"We understand our mission and are prepared to carry it out," Hagler concluded. "We proudly stand ready to serve Task Force Falcon and Multi-National Brigade (East)."



Above: Lt. Col. Wendul Hagler salutes the soldiers of 793rd MP Battalion at their transfer of authority ceremony July 16.

Left: A color guard of soldiers from the 793rd and 175th MP Battalions take the field at their transfer of authority ceremony July 16.



TOA: 28th ID Units Take Charge



Left: Maj. Sam Hayes, 2-112 Infantry Battalion executive officer, takes over for Task Force 2-63 during a transfer of authority ceremony July 26. Photo by Spc. Christina E. Witten.

Below: The 640th Military Intelligence Battalion assumes command during a ceremony July 25. Photo by Spc. Christina E. Witten.



Above: Leaders of the Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2-104 Aviation Battalion unfurl their flag at the transfer of authority ceremony from HHC, 4th Brigade, 1-1 and 2-1 Aviation Battalions July 25. Photo by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons.



Below: Finance soldiers from the 28th Infantry Division uncase their guidon in a transfer of authority ceremony July 15. Photo by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons.



Above: 1-111th Infantry Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Allen R. Ponsini (left) and Ronald E. Winiecki, 1-111th command sergeant major, unfurl the Regimental Colors at a transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Monteith July 23. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson.



Peek-a-Boo... I See You!

Story and Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold

Beady eyes are not something you get from reading Army correspondence courses for eight hours straight. In fact, that's not even the correct spelling for the acronym describing the Balkan Digitization Initiative. Yet the BDI system does have eyes, in a way, and they work quite well.

According to PRNewswire, "U.S. Army forces currently serving as NATO peacekeepers throughout Kosovo, Bosnia and Italy can now get a detailed picture of their surroundings by using a TRW-developed computer information network that tracks vehicles and displays their locations on a digital map."

U.S. soldiers in Multi-National Brigade (East) travel the highways of Kosovo with a little more security thanks to the BDI system attached to their military or civilian-type vehicle.

"The BDI program began to take shape early in 1999 when the U.S. Army recognized that timely and accurate

situational awareness capability was a critical element for effective NATO peacekeeping operations in the Balkans.

"In March (1999), just a month before TRW began work on the BDI program, the need for situational awareness was crystallized when Yugoslav forces captured three U.S. Army soldiers after they mistakenly strayed into Serbian territory while patrolling the Macedonia/Yugoslav border in a High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle," according to PRNewswire.

The civil affairs teams of MNB(E) travel outside the wire on a daily basis. Their BDI system is not only a constant reminder as to their location but also a constant source of information. The type of information given may

prove essential to mission accomplishment in an emergency.

"The BDI is wonderful. It is very convenient," said Spc. Jonathan Anderstrom, civil affairs specialist with the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion.

The convenience the BDI provides is more than the "nice to have" type. "You are able to see other "Friendlies" on the display screen. You are (also) able to send them text messages. You can also determine how fast you are going, what elevation you're at, and input information to determine how long it will take (to get) from point A to point B," said Anderstrom.

The BDI leaves nothing to chance for the MNB(E) soldier. This marvel of technology gives those outside and inside the wire every possible piece of information needed to make sure all is going according to plan.

Even if everything doesn't go according to plan and "Murphy's Law" takes over, the BDI is still ready to help save the day. "It has an emergency button, that when pushed, will lock down all BDI systems and send a distress call

from the vehicle in distress to the TOC," said Anderstrom.

The BDI can also pinpoint a vehicle within one meter of its location. According to Anderstrom, this can be of extreme value if a Medivac request is needed.

While the BDI is packed full of high-tech features, it also has practical ones. The BDI is waterproof. This allows the unit to be washed without a great deal of care. It can be used regardless of lighting conditions. It also has security measures, which prevent unauthorized use.

While the soldiers of MNB(E) are doing everything they can to provide the people of Kosovo a safe and secure environment they are provided everything possible to keep them safe, as is evidenced by the BDI system.



Spc. Nathan Wolf, civil affairs specialist with the 415th Civil Affairs team three, locates his position on an on-screen BDI map.

2x the Citizen, 2x in One Family

Story and Photos by Capt. Lora Neal

Sgt. Keith Henninger of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, Task Force 2-112 Infantry Battalion (Mechanized), along with Col. Mark Scott, deputy commander of civil military operations, had the honor of pinning sergeant's rank on Brian Henninger, Keith's 22-year-old son.

While the evening's shadows grew long over Camp Bondsteel, both Henningers stood tall as the promotion order was read in front of HHC 56th Brigade.

Keith enlisted in the Army in 1974 as a military policeman. He served with the 1st Infantry Division at Ft. Riley, Kan. before going to dog handling school.

"When I enlisted I had watched the Vietnam stuff on TV all the time and I always thought I'd enlist. It looked like it would be a good job," Keith said.

After a tour in Korea, Keith got out of the Army and went home to Millersburg, Pa., where he worked as a tool machinist; but he wasn't finished serving his country.

"When Desert Storm came up, I wanted to get back in the Army," Keith explained. "I went to the course at Ft. Devins, Mass. to get the Military Occupational Specialty 96B, intelligence analyst. Now, I have been a guard for nine years."

On the civilian side, Keith has worked as a state correctional officer at Frackville State Correctional Institution for the last eight years.

Brian, of Dalmatia, Pa. is a communications specialist with wire and cable installation. He has been in the Pennsylvania National Guard for 3 ½ years.

"I want him to keep doing as good of a job (in the military) as he has done in everything. I'm very proud of him."

Sgt. Keith Henninger



Col. Mark Scott pins sergeant rank on Brian Henninger while his dad, Sgt. Keith Henninger, stands at attention.



Sgt. Keith Henninger, intelligence analyst for HHC, Task Force 2-112 Infantry Battalion, is on deployment with his 22-year old son, Brian.

Both father and son are assigned to Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Divarty in Hershey, Pa.

In the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Brian was activated to provide security at Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Harrisburg, Pa. He was under his dad's supervision who was also activated. Before he was mobilized Brian was a criminal justice student at Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania; with goals of either working as a state correctional officer or a state policeman.

Keith reflected on the hopes and dreams he has for his son.

"I want my son to be an officer," Keith said. "He's following in my footsteps, though. Brian has excelled in everything he has done. I want him to keep doing as good of a job (in the military) as he has done in everything. I'm very proud of him."

Brian is Scott's driver during this rotation and may not see his dad much because of their different jobs. Knowing his dad is close by, though, provides both Brian and his mom comfort.

"I wanted dad to be there to pin on my E-5. I know I made him proud."

"Fathers worry about their kids," Keith said. "I just hope he's safe. I don't care if I'm 80 and he's 60. I'll still worry. I hope he excels."

Brian doesn't know what the future holds for him. He suggested he may want to go the officer route and become a Military Police platoon leader down the road. Proud of his new rank and the job he has to do in Kosovo, Brian said, "I'm proud to be here and proud to serve my country with my father."



STRETCH

Left: 1st Lt. Stephanie Ramirez gives relief to a patient by helping stretch out tight leg muscles.

The Physical Therapy Clinic at Camp Bondsteel offers this information so members of MNB(E) can improve their flexibility with a good stretching program.

Stretching is a fundamental way to improve your overall health and fitness. By incorporating a regular flexibility program into your exercise routine you will:

- decrease pain and soreness after exercise
- improve circulation
- improve range of motion
- improve posture
- decrease muscle tension
- reduce muscle soreness
- improve your ability to relax
- allow time for mental training, such as visualization

A complete stretching routine can take as little as 10 minutes. The best time to stretch is after you have warmed up and the muscles are warm. The best time to perform your flexibility routine is after exercise. This is when the muscle is the warmest and when you can use the relaxation. Focus on stretching the muscles you use the most during your specific exercise or sport.

- Perform balanced stretching. This means always stretch the muscles on both sides of your body evenly. Don't stretch one side more than the other side.

Proper Stretching Techniques:

- Avoid over-stretching. Never stretch to the point of pain or discomfort.
- You will feel slight tension or a pull on the muscle at the peak of the stretch.
- Go slow! Always stretch slowly and evenly. Hold the stretch for about 20-30 seconds and release slowly as well.
- Never bounce or jerk while stretching. This can cause injury as a muscle is pushed beyond it's ability. All stretches should be smooth, and slow.
- Don't forget to breathe. Flexibility exercises should be relaxing. Deep easy, even breathing is key to relaxation. Never hold your breath while you stretch.

Bonds

**Story and Photos by
Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold**

Over 125 appointments are seen each week for major and minor body repair at Camp Bondsteel. There are only two "mechanics" at this shop and they are both female. They don't use fiberglass or paint guns either. So far, this doesn't sound like your normal body shop. But wait, they don't service cars or trucks either.

That's right, this body shop doesn't deal with motor vehicles, but carefully helps repair the military and civilian members of the Multi-National Brigade (East) through physical therapy.



1st Lt. Stephanie Rameriz listens intently to a patient's description of his injury.

"We take each patient's care and rehabilitation to heart," said 1st Lt. Stephanie Ramirez, Task Force Med Falcon physical therapy clinic officer-in-charge.

As Ramirez listens to a new patient, it is apparent she is deeply concerned with knowing all the factors involved with the injury. Ramirez has eight years of experience as a board certified physical therapist in listening to and treating her patients. Her many years of experience however has not dampened her passion to help her pa-

Steel Body Shop

tients become as able as they were before the injury.

By contrast, Ramirez has only been in the Army Reserve for one year. "I joined the Army Reserve for professional development. Some of the training I've had in the Army, I would never get as a civilian. I just love being with the orthopedic surgeon in the operating room. It's so great to be able to take care of a patient from the beginning and see them through complete recovery."

This Dublin, Calif. native sees the patients in her clinic through to full rehabilitation in a manner much different than most of her patients are used to. Smiles and laughter are mingled with groans from soldiers stretching their muscles. The therapy, at times, seems to be more for the soul than the body.

"If we can put a smile on their face and one in their heart, this goes a long way in the healing process," said Sgt. Alice Priest, physical therapy clinic non-commissioned officer-in-charge.

Priest is a medical student at Southwest College in Tempe, Ariz. As part of the first Army Reserve units to command TFMF, she realizes the practical experience she is receiving will be invaluable when she returns to her studies. Priest treats her patients much like Ramirez. Her exceptionally skilled practices are complimented by the warm and friendly attitude she exhibits while using the several treatment modalities on her patients.

The clinic uses heat, ice, electrical stimulation and traction in helping to heal strained and sprained ankles, knees, shoulders and just about every muscle or joint in the body. Exercise is the other part of the "one two punch" the clinic uses in getting the best soldiers in the world back on the job.

While Ramirez and Priest use some of the most up-to-date therapy equipment available, this is not all that is necessary for full

recuperation. "Half of the healing process depends on the individuals frame of mind, and we help with that part also," Ramirez said.

"If we can put a smile in their heart and one on their face, this goes a long way."

Sgt. Alice Priest

There are scores of success stories about how soldiers have been helped in attitude and exercise and are now able to perform at levels they never thought possible before their injury. And while many of the patients would give most of the credit for their recovery to the two wonder workers of the clinic, Ramirez and Priest decline any accolades and stress the individual's effort for the success.

Maj. Anne Reynolds, chief of patient administration division and medical regulating officer for TFMF, is one of the fortunate soldiers who have experienced the team's therapeutic touch. "I had stopped running altogether for the last 1 ½ years due to knee pain and sciatica. 1st Lt. Ramirez has educated me on proper hamstring and calf exercises, and now I am running more than I ever have – virtually pain free. The (PT) staff has been very supportive and is always willing to help people out. They often stay late to tend to the Med

Falcon staff so (they) don't take appointment slots away from the rest of the Task Force," declares Reynolds.

Ramirez and Priest consistently demonstrate the professionalism, dedication and compassionate concern for injured soldiers that is not only appreciated but also sought after. They are an integral part in keeping the peace-keeping force of MNB(E) operating at peak efficiency.

Sgt. Alice Priest applies an ice pack to a patient's leg.



In the Know:

A Quick Reference Guide to Life on Camp

At Camp Bondsteel:

AAFES

- PX: 1000-2100 (Ration cards are needed for electronics over \$100 and tobacco)
- Burger King: South Town – 0730-2200
- Anthony's Pizza (Delivery): North Town – 1000-2200
- Cappuccino Bars: North and South Town – 0800-2300
- Beauty Shop : South Town – 0900-1900
- Barber Shop: North and South Town – 0800-1900
- Shoppette: North Town – 1000-2000
- Free Movie Theater: Mid Town (You must sign-in) – 1930 and 2130 - See website for current movie listings
- Pressing Shop: North and South Town – 0730-1800
- Shoeshine: North and South Town – 0715-1730 (closed Tuesday)
- Concessionaires: South Town – 0900-1900
- Photo Developing: South Town – 0900-1900

BRS

- Sewing Shop: South Town 0730-1930 – Free
- Laundry Service: North and South Town – 0730-1930 – Free

MWR

- Fitness Center: North, Mid and South Town – Open 24/7
- Recreational Buildings: North and South Town – Open 24/7 (TVs, games, VTC, Computer room, Phone center –

Other

- Red Cross: Mid Town – Bldg 1330C – 0700-2400 (Big screen TV, Cofee, Tea, Water, Cold drinks, VHS and DVD check-out, free books, cards and envelopes)

At Camp Monteith:

AAFES

- PX: 1000-2000 Monday – Saturday 1000-2000 and Sunday - 1100-1800
- Cappuccino Bar: Monday - Sunday 0800-2400
- Beauty Shop: Friday, Saturday, Sunday 0900-1800
- Barber Shop: 0800-1800 daily
- Pressing Shop: 1000-1800
- Balkan Annex concessionaires: 1000-1800 daily
- Aces: 0800-1900
- Free Movie Theater: Monday – Friday 1900-2100, Saturday 1500 - 1900 - 2100, Sunday 1900-2100

BRS

- Sewing Shop: 0700-1900 daily - Free
- Laundry: 0700-1900 daily

MWR

- Fitness Center: Open 24/7
- Paradise Hall Recreational Building: Open 24/7 (TV, Pool tables, VTC, X-Box, Computer room, Phone center)
- Field House: Open 24/7, Basketball courts

Other

- Chapels: North and South Town – See website for service times
- Education Center Office - 0800 – 1900
- MNB (E) Website – www.mnbe.hqusaureur.army.mil- 24/7

Back to School

Army Education Center Offers Numerous Learning Opportunities

Story and Photos by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson

The soldiers of Multi-National Brigade (East) should not let the mission of providing a safe and secure environment hinder their education.

Whether finishing a degree or just taking classes for self-improvement, there are numerous educational opportunities available at the Laura Bush Army Education Center.

"You see all the guys in the gym exercising their bodies... but I worry about them when they get out (of the Army)," said field representative for the University of Maryland, Helmuth "Mutt" Radig. "I would encourage them to work as much on their education as they do on their bodies."

Some of the ways the Army encourages education include paying 100% of tuition costs, helping to mobilize educational institutions, and augmenting the faculty by having qualified soldiers teaching classes.

The center offers classes during the week as well as on the weekend. Seminars are also provided at convenient times for soldiers. The education center also provides opportunities for online learning. The education center on Camp Bondsteel also supports soldiers stationed at Film City.

There is, however, a minimum attendance requirement on the resident classes of eight students. Yet, according to Radig, Kosovo has the second highest enrollment in the European theater, second only to Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

"You see all the guys in the gym exercising... I would encourage them to work as much on their education as they do on their bodies."

Helmuth "Mutt" Radig

"Interest so far has been really, really good with the new guys coming in," Radig stated.

Pfc. Jonathan S. Haun, an infantryman with Charlie Company, 1-112 Infantry Battalion from Eldred, Pa., reflected on the importance of education to the soldier as he was signing up for classes.

He said the Army is "always advertising (education). They want their soldiers to be squared away."

Currently, the center has representatives from the University of Maryland. This will be increased in August



Cpl. Michael L. Austin, a scout with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-111th Infantry, receives paperwork to review and sign while enrolling in an Elementary Albanian class on Camp Monteith.

when Central Texas College representatives are added to the staff. The center also offers online courses through the University of Oklahoma. It will soon feature similar opportunities from the University of Phoenix.

Should these choices not be enough, a soldier can take advantage of the 100% tuition assistance offered by attending the school of their choice through the Internet. The college or university must be properly accredited and listed in *Accredited Institutions of Postsecondary Education*, which can be found at the education office.

The Army's tuition reimbursement program will pay up to \$250.00 per credit hour of a qualifying class with a school year maximum of \$4,500. The soldier must pay the difference should the course(s) cost more.

The G.I. Bill is a good way to help in such cases, suggested Education Services Officer, Russell Smith. "I never would have been to school if it weren't for the G.I. Bill," Smith stressed.

The education center has the assets and flexibility to meet the needs of MNB(E) soldiers, including classes, evaluations and various military and civilian tests.

Soldiers interested in starting or continuing their postsecondary education should visit the education center from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 7 p.m. on Sundays. The Camp Monteith Office is located on the third floor of building 322, known as the McGraw Building, near the dining facility. At Camp Bondsteel, the center is located in building 2216 in the south Morale Welfare and Recreation compound.

The Education Center is currently enrolling students at both camps for the next semester of classes scheduled to begin August 18 and continue through October 12.

Is it Real...or is it SAV-T?

Story and Photos by Sgt. Heidi Schaap

The unmistakable sound of weapons fire filled the Deployed Support Training Center on Camp Bondsteel July 19, but the smell of gunpowder didn't follow.

Instead, the noise came from the Small Arms Virtual Trainer as the 320th Psychological Operations Company fired at computer-generated targets with air-compressed M-16A2 rifles and M-9 pistols. The small arms system consists of over 10 firing lanes and many scenarios, with more than 10 different weapons.

"Of course, this does not take the place of annual weapons qualification, but as far as training, this is the best possible way to prepare for it," said Donald McGraw, deployed training support specialist and SAV-T operator.

While McGraw encourages soldiers to take weapons training seriously, he acknowledges that what makes SAV-T exceptional is they can log hours of practice without the external pressures they would face on an outdoor range.

Pfc. Robyn Hass, a psyop specialist with the 320th, agreed the SAV-T was helpful.

"I actually like it better than being at the range," Hass said. "You can practice without the sun, wind and dirt in your face. It's pretty high-speed."

Although soldiers are able to practice in a climate-controlled building, McGraw stressed that soldiers should train on their weapons in the same uniform they would wear on qualification day. Adhering to the "train as you fight" philosophy, soldiers should wear body armor, a load bearing vest and kevlar.

The digital targets not only relieve a soldier from traveling down range to check a shot group, but the laser guides also help a soldier scrutinize his steady hold factors, like breath control and aim.

"You get to analyze your shots -before, during and after - so you can make on-the-spot corrections," said Spc. A.J. Aurichio, an electronics maintenance support technician with the 320th. "You can really improve your fundamentals."

"You see where your weapon is pointing the entire time you're shooting. That's the greatest thing about this."

Spc. Miguel Esparza

The SAV-T offers individual training on weapons such as the M-9 pistol, M-16A2 rifle, and the M-249 squad automatic weapon. The facility also houses a virtual trainer for indirect fire.

McGraw said the key to a smooth session is to attend a "trainer-training" program at the facility before the



Sgt. Michael Schaper, assistant team leader with the 320th Psychological Operations Company, fires an M-9 pistol at the Small Arms Virtual-Training facility at Camp Bondsteel.

unit goes through SAV-T.

"Once the soldiers are proficient in their individual skills, they can come together and train as a fire team," McGraw explained. "But the non-commissioned officers should be proficient and know the weapon before they try to do the training. He said that is an NCO is not proficient on a weapon, it really shows when they are trying to teach their soldiers.

Sgt. James Sparkman, a 320th team sergeant, attended "trainer-training" before his company attended SAV-T and McGraw said that it made their training run smoothly.

"We brought our guys here today because I believe basic rifle marksmanship is the backbone of the Army," Sparkman said. "There's always room for improvement, but they did well today."

McGraw said he is always disappointed when soldiers check out of Camp Bondsteel and say they didn't know SAV-T was here. "That's what we want to put an end to," McGraw concluded. "This training system is here for everyone to use and we want them all to get a chance to use it."

May We Always Remember

Camp Bondsteel Heliport Dedicated to 1st ID Pilots

Story by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold

July 23, 2003 and November 19, 1863 may not appear to have much in common; neither do the flight line here or a field in eastern Pennsylvania. Yet they are very similar in the sense they are both places and times when the lives of fallen U.S. soldiers were honored by a dedication.

"We are all part of a greater good, something larger than ourselves. Both Andrew and Devon understood this," said Lt. Col. Samuel Ford, Task Force Dragon commander, during the heliport dedication ceremony here, July 23.

Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Robbins and Warrant Officer Devon Desouza died when their AH-64 Apache crashed on June 8.

"Both Devon and Andrew paid the ultimate sacrifice for the

"They were our heroes."

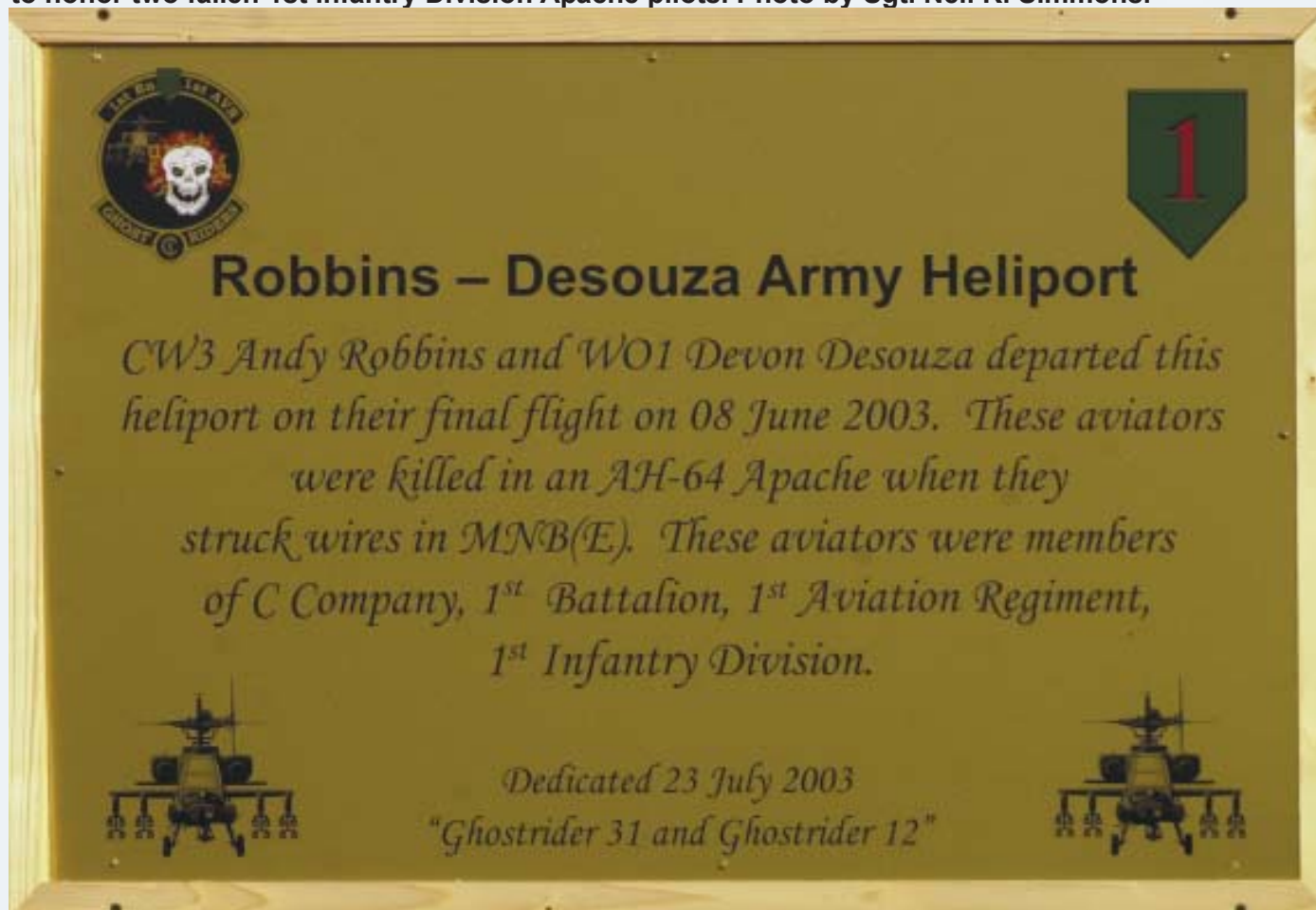
Lt. Col. Samuel Ford

greater good of mankind," Ford continued. "They were our heroes. They both lived and served here in the city of angels."

The plaque, dedicating the heliport to the two 1st Infantry Division pilots, will stand as a reminder to all who see it of dedication and sacrifice to the greater good.

As Abraham Lincoln said in his Gettysburg Address, "But in a larger sense, we can not dedicate - we can not consecrate - we can not hallow - this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced."

A sign was placed on the base of the air traffic control tower July 23 at the Camp Bondsteel heliport to honor two fallen 1st Infantry Division Apache pilots. Photo by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons.



Giving Time, Giving Together

Story and Photos by Spc. Christina E. Witten

VICIA, Kosovo — The bright colors of the sunny July afternoon, the smiling faces of children playing, and the satisfaction of the patients were evident at the small school house where the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion Medical and Dental Civilian Assistance Program mission took place July 24.

Sgt. Arric Clark, Task Force Medical Falcon ambulance driver stated, "I brought a bunch of stuff I wanted to give to the kids, and I enjoyed interacting with (them)."

"Interacting with the people of Kosovo, we don't get that experience on Camp Bondsteel, so this is a real treat for us," said 1st Lt. Rick Emler, TFMF physician's assistant.

But joy wasn't the only feeling shared by the soldiers involved in the MEDCAP mission. The soldiers also showed concern for the future of the people of Vicia.

"We pray that these kids grow up healthy and live normal lives. Knowing that the children, all the locals, don't get medical care like we

do in the States is really upsetting to see. These locals here aren't in the best health they can be, but we're making our mark and doing what we can. We're making a difference here," Price said.

The doctors treated the 35 patients who visited the schoolhouse for medical attention. The physicians were glad they could help their patients.

"The best part is seeing the results of your job, especially helping the children," explained Capt. Victor Kononenko, POLUKRBAT physician.

"It is a great joy to be able to help people," Capt. Dariusz Goral, Polish-Ukrainian Battalion physician, explained. They, in general, are poor and they need our help."

Although the doctors participating in this mission were glad to help the people of Vicia, there were some needs that couldn't be met during this MEDCAP mission.

"The greatest problem is patients that have persistent problems, and in many cases should be seen by a surgeon or need drugs we don't have," Goral explained.

"The needs are very big - especially in the small villages. The

health status of the people is very low. What is stressful is they need our help every month, but we can't help in every village every month," said Capt. Slawomir Chlopik, POLUKRBAT press officer and civil affairs officer.

Despite these setbacks, the people of Vicia are appreciative for the medical assistance the Multi-National Brigade (East) soldiers provide.

"They seem to be very receptive to our suggestions as well as our treatment options. (The) patients, they're very cordial and thankful for what we do," explained Emler.

The mission integrated MNB(E) physicians from Poland, Ukraine, United States and Britain. By doing so, the mission provided these physicians with an opportunity to learn from one another.

"It is a great joy to be able to help people."

Capt. Dariusz Goral

The examining rooms were bustling as doctors speaking three different languages not only communicated with one another with the help of just a few interpreters, but with their patients as well.

"When you are assisted by other countries, it is interesting to see how they practice medicine. The language barrier is difficult, and the use of medication in their treatments is different in some ways. It's a learning experience," Emler stated.

Goral added, "It's a good opportunity to become familiar with each other, and it's a great joy to be able to work with American and Ukrainian colleagues."

The Strpce Municipality civil affairs team from the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion coordinated the MEDCAP mission, and the team provided assistance during the mission.



1st Lt. Rick Emler examines a Vicia boy July 24.



Above: Capt. Victor Kononenko explains how to use the medication he prescribed to a young patient.



Left: The children of Vicia reach for a toy Sgt. Arric Clark is giving away. Besides providing medical support for the MEDCAP mission, Clark provided a number of toys and treats for the children of Vicia.

Below: Capt. Leszek Gieraltowski checks the blood pressure of a Vicia resident while others look on.



Greeks Bring Gifts to Local Clinic

**Story and Photos by
1st. Sgt. Robert Heberling**

FERIZAJ, Kosovo — On the morning of July 11, a combined team of Greek soldiers and Kosovo Protection Corps personnel arrived at Handikos, a clinic in Ferizaj for developmentally disabled people. Their mission was to deliver much needed sporting goods and equipment for the clients.

Chief Warrant Officer Tolli Goyussios, assistant intelligence officer for the Greek 501st Mechanized Infantry Battalion, helped distribute the equipment. The 501st won third place in a basketball tournament two weeks earlier and the Battalion Commander Lt. Col. George Kostoulas made the decision to donate the winnings to Handikos.

The Greek soldiers won 300 euro worth of prize money. They purchased basketballs, a ping-pong set, dartboards, exercise mats and a stationary bicycle.

The patients at Handikos have a range of disabilities caused by

Cerebral Palsy, Encephalitis, Down Syndrome, Muscular Dystrophy and spinal injuries. Although these disabilities could be seen anywhere, some, such as spinal injuries and missing limbs, are a subtle reminder of the regions recent past.

They will use the items for strength and coordination exercises.

Maj. Leonidas Tolidis and 1st Lt. Christos Petropoulos, two doctors from the 501st, were also at the clinic to help with patient exams and observe the clinic's operation.

Also, 1st Lt. Faton Muhaxheri, personnel officer with the 106th Logistics Battalion of the KPC and Staff Sgt. Minavere Rashiti, KPC nurse, were there to assist with exams and do some interpreting.

After all the exams for the day were complete, the team moved outside to an open area to distribute the goods.

A crowd gathered and spirits soared as Tolidis, 1st Lt. Kostas Meflitzidis, Civil Affairs officer for the 501st and Rexhep Ranka, interpreter for the 501st, began handing out the

sports equipment. A reporter from a local radio station was also there to report the event.



1st Lt. Faton Muhaxheri, conducts an interview with a reporter from a local radio station during his visit to Handikos.

"It was a very good experience for the Greek soldiers, as well as the local population, to see the cooperation between the Greeks, KFOR and the local people," said Goyussios.

Xhemile Murseli, the head administrator at Handikos, came to the clinic as a volunteer in 1997. She described Handikos as a place for people with special needs. She has been in a wheelchair for over 10 years and appreciated the need for the equipment more than most. She expressed her joy and appreciation for the gifts and said how all the patients there would benefit from the visit.

"Thank you for coming here and doing good work," Murseli said after receiving the sports equipment. "You are doing a good thing."



Maj Leonidas Tolidis looks on as Rexhep Ranka gives a dart game to Xhemile Murseli in Ferizaj at Handikos, a clinic for developmentally disabled persons.

Soul Food:

A message from the Chaplain

By Chaplain (Col.) Robert D. Boidock and Spc. Ryan B. Tyrrell

Facing the threat of war often motivates service members to seek resolution of spiritual issues they have neglected in life's daily routine. In the environment of threat they often forget what is on sale at Wal-Mart, or whom their favorite sports team is playing. Many come to grips with their finite condition.

The Army Chaplain brings a presence of justness and good in the midst of hell on earth: war. He or she prepares soldiers to kill and to die without losing their souls. During re-deployment, they help soldiers re-integrate into the lives of their families. To soldiers under fire, the chaplain's presence is a sign that God has not abandoned them.

"While some are called to serve God, others are called to serve their country.

Those who serve both...are known as Army Chaplains."

For the Unit Ministry Teams of Multi-National Brigade (East), the importance of their role in this mission is no different. Each UMT, which is comprised of one chaplain and one chaplain assistant is dedicated to supporting the mission providing of a safe and secure environment for the citizens of Kosovo and an effective transition to civilian authorities, as well as encouraging each soldier's spiritual growth in his or her personal faith. While some are called to serve God, others are called to serve their

Country. Those who serve both, as the regimental motto states "Pro Deo Et Patria" (For God and Country) are known as Army Chaplains. It's a calling that brings with it some very special responsibilities. The Army chaplaincy offers ministers, priests, ilmams and rabbis the unique opportunity to guide soldiers and their families through life's triumphs and tragedies. They are involved in the soldier's "circle of life." The chaplains assistant acts as a buffer between the enlisted and commissioned ranks while performing the necessary staff functions for the UMT. The assistant also screens potential counselees, performs various administrative tasks, ensures the UMT is fully mission capable, as well as providing security for the UMT, as the U.S. Army Chaplain is a non-combatant.

The MNB(E) Command UMT is comprised of Chaplain (Col.) Robert D. Boidock and his assistant, Sgt. 1st Class Frank Pepper. The command UMT's responsibilities are to provide religious support for the soldiers of MNB(E) Headquarters and Intelligence, as well as supervising and coordinating the implementation of subordinate UMT's located in the brigade. The ceputy MNB(E) UMT is manned by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bert S. Kozen, MNB(E)'s Roman Catholic priest and Spc. Ryan B. Tyrrell. The Deputy UMT uniquely provides coverage for all Catholic MNB(E) soldiers as well as MNB(E)'s military police assets. The maneuver level UMT's provide battalion level religious support in each of their respective units of coverage. These UMT's consist of Chaplain (Maj.) Gary Taylor and Spc. Timothy Burris of the 2-112 Infantry Battalion, Chaplain (Maj.) Bruce Farrell and Spc. Phyllis Baker of 2-104 Aviation Battalion and Task Force Medical Falcon, and Chaplain (Capt.-P) Scot McCosh and Sgt. Fred Stevenson of 1-111 Infantry Battalion.

Camp Bondsteel North Chapel Services and Times

Sunday:

0800 Liturgical Protestant
0930 Roman Catholic Mass
1100 Contemp. Protestant
1400 Gospel

Tuesday:

1200 Roman Catholic Mass

Wednesday:

1900 Bible Study
2030 Gospel Choir Practice

Thursday:

1900 Roman Catholic Mass

Friday:

1900 Prayer and Bible Studies
Saturday: 1200 Praise Team Practice
1900 Gospel choir

Camp Bondsteel South Chapel Services and Times

Sunday:

0800 Roman Catholic Mass
0930 Non-denominational Christian
1300 Latter Day Saints
1930 Non-denominational Christian

Monday:

1200 Roman Catholic Mass

Saturday:

1930 Roman Catholic Mass

Camp Monteith Chapel Services and Times

Sunday:

0900 Bible Study
1000 Collective Protestant
1200 Latter Day Saints
1700 Contemporary Praise and Worship
1900 Roman Catholic Mass

Tuesday:

1900 "Building a Relationship Foundation" study

Friday:

1300 Muslim Service (Chapel Annex)

News Around the Globe

Army Announces Changes in Skill-Based Stop Loss

Dept. of the Army Press Release

On July 1, 2003, Mr. Reginald J. Brown, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, approved partially lifting Stop Loss for 22 of 24 selected officer specialties and enlisted specialties subject to the Army's all component 12-Month, Skill-Based Stop Loss Program.

The decision to execute a fourth partial lift of Stop Loss will affect approximately 1,200 Active Army, 970 Army Reserve and 975 National Guard soldiers between now and January 2004. These soldiers, as they begin their transition from the Army, will be provided sufficient time to complete transition/career counseling processing and demobilization activities for Ready Reserve soldiers. Personnel strength managers from all Army components will regulate separation dates to ensure no adverse impact on Army-wide readiness.

The following officer and warrant specialties and enlisted Military Occupational Specialties for Active

Army and Ready Reserve Soldiers subject to the all component 12-Month, Skill-Based Stop Loss will no longer be subject to Stop Loss:

Officer Specialties: 30 Information Operations, 34 Strategic Intelligence, 35 Military Intelligence, 45A Comptroller, 48G Foreign Area Officer (Mideast/North Africa), 51C Contract & Industrial Management.

Warrant Officer Specialties: 152C OH-6 Scout Pilot, 153D, UH-60 Pilot, 154C CH-47D Pilot, 311A, CID Special Agent, 351B, Counter Intelligence Technician, 351E Human Intelligence Collection Technician.

Enlisted Soldier Military Occupational Specialties: 52E Prime Power Production Specialist, 74B Information Systems Operator, 95B Military Police, 95C Correctional Specialist, 95D CID Special Agent, 96B Intelligence Analyst, 97B Counter Intelligence Agent, 97E Human Intelligence Collector, 97L Translator, 98G Voice Interceptor.

Secretary Brown approved four increments of Stop Loss in support of

Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. The first increment was announced November 30, 2001 and focused on Active Army Special Forces soldiers and certain Aviation specialties. The fourth and last increment was announced February 14, 2003, and directed the Active Component (AC) Unit Stop Loss for units supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On May 27, 2003, Secretary Brown approved lifting AC Unit Stop Loss and a third partial lift of stop loss for selected skills subject to Stop Loss one through four.

Prior to Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, the Army last used Stop Loss during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990 when President George H. Bush delegated Stop Loss authority to the Secretary of Defense.

Stop loss does not affect most involuntary separations or retirements, nor does it generally limit laws, regulations, or policies that lead to involuntary separations, retirements, or releases from active duty.

A Feather in Gap's Cap: 28th Gets Stryker Brigade

From Lebanon Daily News, July 3, 2003

With the largest Army National Guard in the country, the history of its 28th Infantry Division is legendary — it's the oldest division in the U.S. Army. That means parts of its modern, mechanized infantry division have been involved in virtually every conflict this nation has ever seen. When it comes to military affairs, not surprisingly, we tend to root for the home team. Now — again — national news has affirmed our loyalties.

The Daily News reported Tuesday that Fort Indiantown Gap is soon to be home to a Stryker rapid-deployment brigade with 3,000 troops working in 11-member teams. Six such units are being created in the nation. Five with regular Army soldiers. - the sixth will be based at the Gap

Selection of the Gap as the home base for the Stryker brigade and its 3,000 soldiers is a feather in the local base's cap and will inject serious dollars into the local economy.

It's the most significant occurrence there since the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's decision last decade that the facility's full-time Army garrison would be closed, leaving the base for the Pennsylvania National Guard to run on its own.

The Stryker brigades will be given top-line equipment, a new fighting vehicle, support personnel and the most modern training. They will be designed to be the Army's fastest movers and heaviest hitters. The Stryker brigade will be made up of citizen-soldiers, many from right here at home.

Soldier on the Street

What is your favorite military motto?



Cora E. Courage

Rank: Capt.
Unit: E Co. 434th MSB, 34th ID
Job: Clinical Psychologist
Hometown: Evenaston, Wy.
Quote: "Heal the Warrior!"



William Hardy, III

Rank: Pfc.
Unit: HHC, 56th Bde.
Job: G-3 Driver
Hometown: Langhorne, Pa.
Quote: "Go Ord-nance."



Vince Lutz

Rank: Pfc.
Unit: HHC, 56th Bde.
Job: G-3 Driver
Hometown: Ben Salem, Pa.
Quote: "Suck it up and drive on!"



James Despirito

Rank: Spc.
Unit: HHC, 1-111 ID
Job: Personal Security Detail
Hometown: Ringwood, N.J.
Quote: "Our country before ourselves."



Mark Thompson

Rank: Staff Sgt.
Unit: 2-112th Infantry Division
Job: Team Leader
Hometown: Petersburg, Pa.
Quote: "Men of Iron."



Amy Anderson

Rank: Maj.
Unit: 175th Military Police Battalion
Job: Task Force MP operations officer
Hometown: Ashland, Mo.
Quote: "Of the troops, For the troops."



Scenes of Kosovo

families enjoy a day of leisure in the sun along the shores of picturesque Lake Graçanico
on Route Rat between Pristina and Novo Brdo. Photo by 1st Sgt. Robert Heberling